



ANNUAL REPORT



LIBRARY

on

SOUTH HERTS (No.1.) COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT

Y E A R    1 9 4 2

This report, as in previous years, is again curtailed on the instructions received from the Ministry of Health. On the whole this has been a healthy year. There have been no serious epidemic outbreaks although scarlet fever has been generally more prevalent. Recently the Chief County Clinical Tuberculosis Officer remarked to me that the three great factors promoting tuberculosis are overcrowding, mental and physical stress and lack of nourishment. Increased mental and physical strain is inevitable in war time and a marked degree of overcrowding is undeniable; therefore, the indication is that these undesirable conditions have been counter-balanced by the wonderful maintenance of good food supply which, combined with the all round increase in employment, has ensured a healthy diet to the very great majority and so maintained resistance against this disease. The same argument may well be applied to the general preservation of health throughout the year.

In spite of the reduced Sanitary Staff a considerable amount of routine Sanitary work has been carried out and anything of an urgent nature has received prompt attention. It should be noted that during the year the Sanitary staff in the Borough of Hemel Hempstead sustained a loss in the departure of Mr. F. Appleyard, Chief Sanitary Inspector who left to take up a more responsible post. He was succeeded in October by Mr. H.J. Bellamy.

The Scabies Order 1941 led to the introduction in the district of a scheme whereby a Cleansing Station, manned by part time staff, was opened in the Borough of Hemel Hempstead to serve the whole of the South Herts (No.1.) Combined Sanitary District. Cases, contacts and bedding from a distance have been conveyed by A.R.P. ambulances for treatment there. Altogether 83 persons were cleansed at the Station. In addition to this the School nursing staff treated 110 children with scabies at the Borough School Clinic and 71 children received in-patient treatment for this condition at Midcot Sick Bay. Three adults also received in-patient treatment under the Local Authorities Scheme. The treatment given has consisted of a bath followed by a thorough painting with benzyl benzoate, one or two applications having in nearly all cases proved sufficient. It is however noted that in spite of medical practitioners being advised of this method of treatment and the facilities available, a number of them appear still to prefer home treatment with sulphur. There certainly does appear to be a very definite decline in the prevalence of scabies in this district.

A number of lousy families have also been disinfested and it is hoped that with the decline of scabies prevalence more attention will be able to be given to this condition.

A skeleton scheme for dealing with the possible advent of Typhus Fever has been framed. Some volunteers for dealing with possible contacts and disinfestation of houses involved in the disease have been obtained and given some instructions in precautionary methods. Protective clothing has been obtained and arrangements outlined for the housing and care of contacts. Agreement has also been given to the obtaining of two vans to serve the district in the conveyance of persons and bedding requiring disinfestation.



Fair progress has been made in the campaign for immunisation against diphtheria. There are now four regular monthly clinics in the district. Immunisation in the more rural portions of the district is available at the Infant Welfare Centres and any person can obtain immunisation for their children at the expense of the Local Authority and free of charge to themselves if they apply to their own medical practitioner in the District. Altogether 809 children between the ages of one and five and 892 children between the ages of five and fifteen were immunised during 1942. Broadly speaking, up to June 1943, about 72% of elementary school children and about 50% of children under school age have been immunised. Propaganda has included the sending of Pamphlets to parents and the issue of Birthday Greeting Cards advocating immunisation and sent to parents of children attaining the age of one year. Mention must be made of the very acceptable help afforded by members of the Red Cross Society at the immunisation clinics. In many cases they have supplied first class teams to assist the Doctor and Nurse.

An outbreak of Epidemic Nausea must be recorded because of the apparent rarity or the infrequent recognition of the condition which is, in itself, a very mild illness. The outbreak involved a large and partly-residential school; the condition was thought by me to have been caused by milk infection but a specialist from the Ministry of Health was able to definitely assure himself that it was epidemic nausea. This is thought to be an air borne infection and to spread in a similar way to influenza.

There were many small and limited outbreaks of Sonne Dysentery: no doubt other cases occurred mild enough to be unrecognised.

During the year a Red Cross Orthopaedic Clinic was opened at Berkhamsted; massage and forms of electrical and sunlight treatment are available here and the Clinic is well patronised and is a decided asset.

The prevalence of Scarlet Fever has produced a number of instances where it has been desirable to endeavour to control the spread of streptococcal infection by the search for carriers of these organisms with which scarlet fever bears some relation. I should like to record my thanks to those medical practitioners who have so generously assisted me in this matter which involves the tedious and lengthy procedure of the taking of many swabbings.

I would say that I have been very concerned throughout the year to ensure that the basic principles upon which the prevention and spread of infection depends should always be carefully maintained. In these times of national stress I have observed a tendency to condone the waiving of common precautionary observances. The added effort necessary to maintain our wonted standards is well worth while and must, in the long run, be both economical and, from a health point of view, eminently desirable.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

## STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population 1942)..... 22,890.

		Total	M	F	
Live Births	( Legitimate	402	197	205	) Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 18.5
	( Illegitimate	21	8	13	
Stillbirths.....		10	3	7	Rate per 1000 total (live and still)births ..... 23.1
Deaths.....		259	126	133	Deathrate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still)births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes.	2	4.6
Total.	2	4.6

Deathrate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1000 live birth	42.6
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	42.3
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	47.6

Actual number of deaths under one year:	legitimate	17
	illegitimate	1
	Total.....	18

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	Houses.....	Public Health Acts.	449
		Housing Act	17
		Overcrowding	16
		Infectious disease & disinfection	205
		Complaints investigated	361
	Drainage inspections and tests		212
	Common Lodging Houses		36
	Tents, Vans & Sheds		32
	Stables and Piggeries		12
	Factories & Workplaces		113
	Bakehouses		91
	Schools		49
	Shop Acts		482
	Petroleum Stores		32
	Common Yards & Passages		130
	Re-visits to premises under notice		2133
	Work in progress		312
	Interviews with Owners, Builders etc.		709
	Verminous premises		101
	Cesspools		308
	Rats & Mice infested premises		17
	Canal Boats		43
	Rivers and streams		2
	Miscellaneous visits and inspections		217
	Public Conveniences		17
	Public Houses		16



Meat and Foods.	Slaughterhouses	86
	Butchers shops	118
	Fried Fish shops	17
	Public Markets	132
	General food shops & premises	462
	Dairies & Milk shops	197
	Cowsheds	286
	Milk samples taken	158
	Water samples taken	26
	Visits re Food Control	639

Total visits and Inspections 8233

Notices served and complied with.

<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.41.</u>	<u>Served</u> <u>1942.</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>1942</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.42.</u>
88	696	686	98

Eradication of Bed Bugs. During 1942, 15 cases of bed bug infestation were found ( exclusive of Council Houses ) and dealt with. In two of these instances common lodging houses were involved, when disinfection was carried out by a firm of specialists using a proprietary brand of fumigant. Arrangements were made for the inmates to be cleansed at the same time. In the remaining cases disinfection was undertaken by the Public Health Department a liquid insecticide being used after the removal of picture rails, skirting boards and mouldings. Twentytwo houses were dealt with in this way and in addition, twentythree Council Houses were disinfested under the direct supervision of the Housing Manager.

Meat and Food Inspection. Normal slaughtering is not now carried out in the Borough owing to the control exercised by the Government, as a result of which meat is supplied to this district from a depot at Watford. Occasional pigs are killed on special licences from the Ministry of Food and constitute the only slaughtering now carried on here. A check was kept on the meat coming into the district and frequent inspections were made at butchers shops. Details of inspections of all food premises are shown above. Every effort was made to prevent wastage of unsound food most of the smaller quantities of which were used locally for animal feeding. Larger consignments were referred to the Divisional Food Salvage Officer for disposal.

-----  
PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following gives details of notified cases ( excluding Tuberculosis ) during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases</u> <u>notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to</u> <u>hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	76	74	-
Diphtheria	4	4	-
Measles	272	15	-
Whooping Cough	18	-	1
Erysipelas	6	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	-
Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Sonne Dysentery	15	14	-

<u>TUBERCULOSIS.</u>	<u>New cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
	Pulmonary..... 8	Pulmonary.....11
	Non Pulmonary.....13	Non Pulmonary.... 7

-----  
MALCOLM GROSS. M.B. D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT.

## STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population)..... 11,110

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live ( Legitimate	164	91	73	Birth rate per 1000 of
Births(				the estimated resident
( Illegitimate	4	1	3	population..... 15.1
Stillbirths.....	1	1	Nil	Rate per 1000 (live and
				still)births..... 5.9
Deaths.....	134	70	64	Death rate per 1000 of
				the estimated resident
				population..... 12.1

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still)births.
Puerperal sepsis.	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total.	Nil	Nil

Deathrate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births.....	17.9
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.....	12.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births...	250.0

Actual number of deaths under one year - legitimate	2
illegitimate	1
Total	3

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1942

## Visits and Inspections made.

<u>Visits and inspections made.</u>		
General	Houses	Public Health Acts.
		Housing Acts.
		Overcrowding.
		Infectious disease & disinfection
		Complaints investigated.
		Drainage inspections & tests.
		Tents, Vans & Sheds.
		Factories, Workshops etc.
		Bakehouses.
		Shop Acts.
		Petroleum Stores.
		Revisits to premises under notice.
		Verminous premises.
		Cesspools.
Meat & Food		Water samples taken.
		Miscellaneous visits & inspections.
		Slaughterhouses.
		Butchers Shops.
		General Food shops & premises.
		Dairies & Milkshops )
		Cowsheds. )

Notices served and complied with.

Outstanding <u>31.12.41.</u>	Sorved <u>1942</u>	Complied with <u>1942</u>	Outstanding <u>31.12.42.</u>
6	48	42	12

Nuisances & Defects remedied.

Houses.	67
Drainage & Cesspools.	38
E.C's, W.C's & Dustbins.	21
Shop Acts.	Nil
Dairies & Cowsheds.	19
Miscellaneous.	Nil

-----

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified diseases  
(excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	7	7	-
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Whooping Cough	16	-	-
Measles	32	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pulmonary..... 11	Pulmonary..... 5
Non Pulmonary..... 4	Non Pulmonary..... 1

-----

MALCOLM GROSS. M.B. D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



BERKHAMSTED URBAN DISTRICT

STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population) 1942..... 12,110

	Total	M	F	
Live Births (Legitimate	174	84	90	) Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 14.9
(Illegitimate	7	4	3	
Stillbirths.....	4	2	2	Rate per 1000 (live and still)births..21.6
Deaths.....	125	65	60	Deathrate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 10.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still)births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births.....	33.1
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.....	34.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births....	Nil
Actual number of deaths of infants under one year: legitimate	6
illegitimate	Nil
Total...	6

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1942.

<u>Visits&amp; Inspections.</u>	Houses - Public Health Act	30
	Housing Act	107
	Infectious diseases & Disinfecting	119
	Drainage inspections and tests	7
	Common Lodging Houses	12
	Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.	40
	Petrol licences issued.	19
	Bakehouses	30
	Verminous premises.	50
	Water samples taken.	6
	Test re chlorination of Town water.	52
	Test re chlorination of S.B.water.	20
	Inspections re premises occupied by Military.	8
	Tents, Vans and Sheds.	6

Statutory notices were issued to the Owners of eight premises  
in the district and work carried out.

Efforts are made with respect to maintaining the houses of the  
working class in good condition, but difficulty and delay is  
experienced due to the shortage of labour and materials.

<u>Meat &amp; Food.</u>	Butcher Shops.	35
	Public Markets.	53
	General Foodshops and premises	40
	Dairies & Milkshops.	13
	Cowsheds.	7
	Milk samples taken	101
	Miscellaneous visits and inspections.	13

<u>Schools Attended.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>
Foundling Hospital.....	2
Berkhamsted Girls School.....	3
Victoria Girls School.....	2
Willesden Central School.....	1

#### Unsound Food Surrendered.

Meats (frozen).....	80½ lbs.
" (English).....	12 " plus one boasts head.
" (canned).....	112 tins.
Fruit ".....	38 "
Vegetables ".....	44 "
Eggs.....	356
Fish.....	4 boxes plus 11 tins.
Fish cakes.....	6 dozen.
Bacon.....	28 lbs
Milk (canned).....	34 tins.
Cheese.....	6½ lbs.

#### Disinfection.

Premises, bedding etc. disinfected after infectious disease.....	114
Bundles of bedding disinfected for evacuation and A.R.P. Departments.	79

#### PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives details of notified diseases  
(excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	15	15	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Measles	167	-	-
Whooping Cough	43	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-
Pneumonia	6	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Sonne Dysentery	11	-	-

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pulmonary ..... 9	Pulmonary ..... 5
Non Pulmonary..... 5	Non Pulmonary..... 3

MALCOLM GROSS, M.B. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



BERKHAMSTED RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS.

Population ( Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population 1942)..... 6,120

	Total	M	F	
Live ( Legitimate	80	38	42	) Birthrate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 13.4
Births(				
(Illegitimate	2	1	1	
Stillbirths.....	3	1	2	Rate per 1000 (live and still)births.. 35.3
Deaths.....	48	22	26	Deathrate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 7.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 (live and still)births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total.	Nil	Nil

Deathrate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births..... Nil  
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births..... Nil  
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births. Nil

Actual number of deaths of infants under one year: Nil  
-----

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	Houses - Public Health Acts	85
	Housing Acts	39
	Overcrowding	20
	Infectious disease and disinfection	36
	Complaints investigated	37
	Drainage inspection and tests	63
	Tents, Vans and Sheds	14
	Factories, Workshops & Workplaces	21
	Bakehouses	10
	Schools	15
	Petroleum Stores	17
	Work in progress	225
	Verminous premises	17
	Cesspools	46
	Canal Boats	15
	Licensed premises ( Hotels and Beerhouses)	10
	Rivers and streams	19
	Visits re evacuation & billeting	126
	Premises disinfected	21
Meat and Food.	Slaughterhouses	6
	Cowsheds & Dairies	87
	Milk samples taken - Minit Test	21
	Water samples taken	3

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses.	175
Drainage and Cesspools	43
W.C's.	37
Dairies and Cowsheds	12
Factories	2

-----

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.      The following gives  
details of notified diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)  
during the year:

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	6	..
Diphtheria	2	2	..
Whooping Cough	5	..	..
Measles	4	..	..
Erysipelas	2	2	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	..
Pneumonia	2	1	..
Enteric Fever			
(Paratyphoid C 1			
Typhoid 1 )	2	1	..
Sonne Dysentery	15	15	..

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>New Cases.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
Pulmonary.....	4	Pulmonary.....	2
Non Pulmonary...	1	Non Pulmonary....	2

-----

MALCOLM GROSS, M.B. D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



TRING URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICS.

Population ( Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population 1942)..... 5,409

	Total	M	F	
Live (Legitimate Births)	56	25	31	) Birthrate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 11.1
(Illegitimate)	4	2	2	
Stillbirths.....	2	1	1	Rate per 1000 (live and still)births..... 32.3
Deaths.....	56	32	27	Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population..... 10.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 (live and still)Births.
Puerperal sepsis.	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	16.1
Total.	1	16.1

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births..... Nil  
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births. Nil  
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.. Nil

Actual number of deaths of infants under one year: Nil.

-----

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1942.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	Houses -	Public Health & Housing Acts.	134
		Cases of infectious disease	30
		Cases of infectious disease removed to hospital	13
		Disinfections carried out	12
		Complaints investigated.	86
		Drainage inspections and tests	14
		Factories, Workshops & Workplaces	40
		W.C.pans broken	3
		Drains and W.C.'s blocked	5
		Earth closets not emptied	4
		Sanitary dustbins provided	10
		Nuisance from collection of oil cake	3
		Nuisance from dog	1
		Nuisance from rats	1
		Defective window	2
		Dampness	6
		Defective sink	1
		Defective rain water guttering	2
		Defective W.C.cistern	1
		Defective floors	2
		Defective ceiling	1
		Defective grate	1
		Defective copper	1
		Defective flue pipe	1
		Defective plaster on walls and coilings.	2
		House cleansed	1
		Vermineous houses cleansed	3

<u>General</u> <u>cont.</u>	Milk failing to reach 'accredited'	
	best.	5
	Dirty milk	2
	Meat condemned (apart from carcasses)	46 lots.
	Fish condemned	4 lots
	Eggs condemned	5 lots
	Cheese condemned	1 lot
	Vegetables condemned	2 lots
	Chocolate condemned	1 lot

<u>Meat and Food.</u>	<u>Number in District.</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Bakehouses	9	25
Slaughterhouses	1 ( in use)	14
(Note: Carcasses are examined daily by Meat Inspector)		
Dairies, Milkshops & Cowsheds.	18	63

Milk samples: These are dealt with by Veterinary Inspector.

#### Petroleum (Consolidated) Act 1928.

Petroleum licenses issued.	15
Quantity stored.	18600 gallons.

-----

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following gives detail of notified disease ( excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	9	9	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Measles	7	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pulmonary..... Nil	Pulmonary..... Nil
Non Pulmonary..... 3	Non Pulmonary..... 1

-----

MALCOLM GROSS. M.B. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.